

What is claimed is:

1. A method of acquiring a license in a hub network, comprising:

sending a license request from a client to a server;

5 sending a connection confirmation from said client to said server; and

receiving license data at said client from said server;

wherein said client and said server are connected in a hub network,

said license request identifies a sub-copy version stored on said client,

said sub-copy version includes sub-copy locked content data, and

10 said license data is bound to said hub network.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

synchronizing a client clock with a server clock by setting said client clock  
according to said server clock before receiving said license data at said client;

15 wherein said client clock is a secure clock of said client,

said server clock is a secure clock of said server.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

updating a sub-copy license for a sub-copy version stored on said client;

20 wherein said sub-copy license corresponds to said sub-copy version, and

updating license data for said sub-copy version includes updating said sub-copy  
license according to said received license data.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

25 said license data is a sub-copy license indicating permissions for using said sub-  
copy version.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein:

said sub-copy license indicates an expiration period, and

30 said expiration period indicates an amount of time for which said sub-copy license  
is valid.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

setting an expiration time according to said expiration period including resetting said expiration time if said expiration time was previously set to a different value;

5 wherein said client has a secure client clock,

when said client clock indicates that the current expiration time has been reached, said sub-copy license expires and becomes disabled, and

said client will not decrypt said sub-copy locked content data when said sub-copy license is disabled.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein:

said license request indicates said sub-copy version.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

15 said connection confirmation indicates said client is connected to said server.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

said connection confirmation indicates said client is within a local environment of said server, and

20 said local environment is a limited area defined relative to said server.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a security confirmation from said client to said server,

wherein said security confirmation indicates a state of security data stored on said

25 client.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a security update at said client from said server;

wherein said security update includes new security data.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein:

said security data includes a new key for decryption.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

5        setting an expiration time according to said received license data.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving said sub-copy version from a device that is a member of a different hub  
network from said hub network.

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15. A method of providing a license in a hub network, comprising:

receiving a license request from a client at a server;

sending a connection confirmation request from said server to said client; and

sending license data from said server to said client;

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wherein said client and said server are connected in a hub network,

said license request identifies a sub-copy version stored on said client, and

said license data is bound to said hub network.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

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synchronizing a client clock with a server clock by setting said client clock

according to said server clock before sending said license data to said client;

wherein said client clock is a secure clock of said client,

said server clock is a secure clock of said server.

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17. The method of claim 15, wherein:

said license data corresponds to a sub-copy license for said sub-copy version and  
includes data for updating said sub-copy license.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein:

said license data is a sub-copy license indicating permissions for using said sub-copy version.

5 19. The method of claim 18, wherein:

said sub-copy license indicates an expiration period,

said expiration period indicates an amount of time for which said sub-copy license is valid, and

10 when said expiration time has been reached after sending said license data, said sub-copy license expires and becomes disabled.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein:

said license request indicates said sub-copy version.

15 21. The method of claim 15, wherein:

said connection confirmation request requests confirmation that said client is connected to said server.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein:

20 said connection confirmation request requests confirmation that said client is within a local environment of said server, and

said local environment is a limited area defined relative to said server.

23. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

25 sending a security confirmation request from said server to said client,  
wherein said security confirmation request requests confirmation of a state of security data stored on said client.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

30 receiving a security confirmation at said server from said client;

wherein said security confirmation indicates said state of said security data stored on said client.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

5        sending a security update from said server to said client.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein:

wherein said security update includes a new key for decryption.

10    27. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

checking a revocation list to determine whether said client is included in said revocation list;

wherein said revocation list is stored on said server.

15    28. A method of acquiring a license in a hub network, comprising:

sending a license request from a client to a server through an intermediary device;

sending a connection confirmation from said client to said server through said intermediary device; and

receiving license data at said client from said server through said intermediary

20    device;

wherein said client and said server are not connected in a hub network,

said license request identifies a sub-copy version stored on said client,

said sub-copy version includes sub-copy locked content data, and

said license data is bound to said hub network.

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29. A method of providing a license in a hub network, comprising:

receiving a license request from a client at a server through an intermediary device;

sending a connection confirmation request from said server to said client through

30    said intermediary device; and

sending license data from said server to said client through said intermediary device;

wherein said client and said server are not connected in a hub network,  
said license request identifies a sub-copy version stored on said client, and  
said license data is bound to said hub network.

30. A method of refreshing a license in a hub network, comprising:

sending a refresh request from a client to a server;  
sending a connection confirmation from said client to said server;  
receiving updated license data at said client from said server; and  
updating a sub-copy license stored on said client according to said updated license data;

wherein said client and said server are connected in a hub network,  
said refresh request identifies a sub-copy version stored on said client,  
said sub-copy version includes sub-copy locked content data,  
said sub-copy license corresponds to said sub-copy version, and  
said sub-copy license is bound to said hub network.

31. A method of refreshing a license in a hub network, comprising:

receiving a refresh request from a client at a server;  
sending a connection confirmation request from said server to said client; and  
sending updated license data from said server to said client;  
wherein said client and said server are connected in a hub network,  
said refresh request identifies a sub-copy version stored on said client,  
said updated license data is for updating a sub-copy license corresponding to said sub-copy version, and  
said sub-copy license is bound to said hub network.